

gen rant composition is a nonazide composition and said selective non-catalytic reducing compound is ammonium sulfate.

33. (new) The vehicle occupant restraint system of Claim 31 wherein:
said selective non-catalytic reducing compound is selected from the group consisting of ammonium carbonate $((\text{NH}_4)_2\text{CO}_3)$, ammonium sulfate $((\text{NH}_4)_2\text{SO}_4)$, ammonium chloride (NH_4Cl) , ammonium carbamate $(\text{H}_2\text{NCO}_2\text{NH}_4)$, and ammonium fluoride (NH_4F) .

REMARKS

Responsive to the office action mailed on January 2, 2002, applicants have presented new claims to further state the present invention.

Relative to the restriction requirement, applicants note that claims 3, 13-18, and 21-33 read on the species election of record.

Antecedent support for the new claims may be found throughout the specification.

The Rejections:

The examiner states that claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Burns et al. WO 98/06682.

Applicants note that Burns et al. is equivalent to the parent application of the present application, the parent application being U.S. Serial Number 08/695,954 filed on August 12, 1996. Applicants have claimed priority to the parent application and assert the same priority to rebut the examiner's rejections based on novelty and/or obviousness.

In essence, applicants maintain that each pending claim has either explicit and/or inherent basis in the parent application as drafted, and is therefore entitled to the earlier filing date as a basis for priority. Notwithstanding the examiner's assertions, applicants have, in the pending claims, maintained the same scope of invention as explicitly or inherently described in the parent application.

Accordingly, applicants respectfully traverse the rejections of claims 3 and 13-18 and request the examiner's reconsideration thereof. For each pending claim has a basis in the parent application, thereby obviating the rejections predicated on WO 98/06682 and nullifying the same as a prior art reference.

By these amendments, applicants have attempted to further state the present invention. Accordingly, the allowance of all pending claims, and passage of the subject application to issue are courteously solicited.

Concurrently herewith, applicants petition for a one-month extension for response. Furthermore, applicants present additional claims that include six additional independent claims, and therefore include payment for four independent claims in excess of three. Our check in the amount of \$446.00 is included in payment thereof. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any deficiencies or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 04-1311. A duplicate copy of the first page of this transmittal is also enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

Date

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MARKED UP CLAIMS AND AMENDMENTS

3. (twice amended) A vehicle occupant restraint system comprising:
- an inflatable air bag;
 - a gas generator for inflating said air bag;
 - a nitrogen-containing gas generant composition within said gas generator;
 - a selective non-catalytic reducing compound placed within said gas generator in heterogeneous relation to said gas generant composition, wherein said selective non-catalytic reducing compound is selected from the group consisting of ammonium salts, amides, imides, [or] and amine-containing compounds.